

LOFTUS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT
for the Year 1957

of the Medical Officer of Health

W. H. BUTCHER, V.R.D., M.A.,
D.M., D.P.H., BARRISTER - AT - LAW,
SURGEON COMMANDER R.N.V.R.



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
LOFTUS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my annual report for 1957, the contents and arrangements of which are in accordance with circular 158 of the Ministry of Health. Since the tenure of my office will expire on the 31st March there is no time to wait for the figures of the Registrar General regarding births and deaths: these have been compiled from such figures as I have in the office and are only provisional, subject to correction when more accurate ones are available.

With this report I conclude ten years and nine months of happy service to your Council. A servant however, who only praises, does not merit the confidence of his masters. I must therefore admit that I am concerned about the progress in slum clearance; the matter is not a big one.

I recall with especial pleasure the courteous and kindly attitude of the public toward me on all occasions. I would like particularly to thank the staff of the District Health Office, Mr. R. K. Nuttall and Miss P. Knaggs, for their willing efforts and finally, I thank all—and they have indeed been many—who, by their help and co-operation, have lightened my labours as your Medical Officer of Health.

I am, gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. BUTCHER,

Medical Officer of Health.

28th March, 1958.

TABLE 1
Public Health Officers

Whole Time Officers	Guisborough Urban District	Skelton & Brotton Urban District	Loftus Urban District
Medical Officer of Health who is also Asst. County Medical Officer No. 4 Area N.R.C.C. and School Medical Officer, N.R.C.C.	Dr. W. H. Butcher		
Public Health Inspectors	Mr. A. T. Pallister*	Mr. J. J. Pattison	Mr. W. C. Ransom*
Additional Public Health Inspector	Mr. E. Ward		

*Also Surveyor of the district concerned

SECTION I

Vital Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

Population

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the district in the mid-year 1957 is 7,660, as compared with one of 7,670 for the mid-year 1956.

General Statistics

I am indebted to the Financial Officer of the Council for the following figures:—

- | | | |
|--|------|---------|
| 1. Area of the District in acres | .... | 9,974 |
| 2. No. of inhabited houses according to the rate books | | 2,656 |
| 3. Rateable Value | .... | £68,753 |
| 4. Sum represented by a penny rate | .... | £260 |

The District consists of the neat town of Loftus, the industrial communities of Skinningrove and of part of Carlin How and the hamlets of Liverton, Scaling, Easington, Street Houses and Cowbar. Gentle wooded ravines, the griffs of the Danish settlers, intersect rolling uplands studded with farms that reach northwards to the height of 699 feet at Boulby, or Rockcliff, the highest headland in England and Wales; southwards the fields merge with the moors at a height of nigh on 1,000 feet. The principal industries today are the great Skinningrove Iron and Steel Works, and Agriculture. The Alum workings on Rockcliff, to which once Loftus owed its prosperity, ceased to be operated in 1868; and now of the ironstone mines only one is worked; while inshore fishing has practically ceased as a means of livelihood.

TABLE II — Vital Statistics
CAUSES OF DEATH

	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningo-coccal infections	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	2	2
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	1	1
Malignant neoplasm of breast	—	1
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	7
Leukaemia	—	3
Diabetes	2	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	9
Coronary disease, angina	8	8
Hypertension with heart disease	1	—
Other heart diseases	6	10
Other circulatory diseases	2	4
Influenza	—	2
Pneumonia	3	—
Bronchitis	2	1
Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
Gastro-enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—
Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	2	2
Motor Vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	3	2
Suicide	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
ALL CAUSES	54	55

Deaths

The deaths are classified under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948. 109 deaths of residents gave a death-rate of 14.2 per thousand of population: compared to 11.5 per thousand for England and Wales. Table 2 shows clearly what killed people in Loftus in 1957.

TABLE 3
Vital Statistics

		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Live Births		76	66	142
Legitimate	75	64	139
Illegitimate	1	—	1
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Still Births	5	1	6
Legitimate	5	1	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

			MALE	FEMALE
Total	. . . .	....	3	—
Legitimate	.... ..	....	3	—
Illegitimate	.... ..	....	—	—

Births

The number of births registered in the district during the year was 142 giving a birth-rate of 18.5 per thousand of the population, compared to 16.1 for England and Wales. Three infants under the age of one year died, giving an infantile mortality rate of 21.1 per thousand live births compared with one of 23 for England and Wales. Two of the infants who died were under four weeks of age.

SECTION II

Infectious Diseases

Table 4 shows the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases as notified except tuberculosis. Table 5 gives the incidence of tuberculosis.

TABLE 4
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1957
(other than Tuberculosis)

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—	Age Un- known
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	13	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	5	3	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	6	—	3	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

One new case of respiratory tuberculosis and none of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year.

TABLE 5
Tuberculosis

AGE GROUPS Years	RESPIRATORY FORM		NON-RESPIRATORY FORM	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 to 4	—	—	—	—
5 to 9	—	—	—	—
10 to 14	—	1	—	—
15 to 19	—	—	—	—
20 to 24	—	—	—	—
25 to 44	—	—	—	—
45 to 54	—	—	—	—
55 to 64	—	—	—	—
65 to 74	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	1	—	—

There were no deaths.

TABLE 6
Immunizations against Diphtheria or Whooping Cough and Diphtheria

	AGE GROUPS			TOTAL
	UNDER 1	1 TO 4	5 TO 14	
Completed Immunizations	55	7	16	78
Reinforcing Doses	—	—	58	58

Immunization was available to children at the hands of the family doctor, or at the school clinic of the Education Authority at Carlin How, and at the infant welfare centres of the Local Health Authority at Carlin How, Skinninggrove and Loftus. Reinforcing doses were given at the schools by myself to children who had been immunized earlier in life.

Regarding protection against smallpox, two received primary vaccinations and none were revaccinated.

Regarding immunization against poliomyelitis there was sufficient vaccine available for some 340 children who received the two injections which at present is considered to be the complete course.

SECTION III

The General Provision of Health Services in the District

1. Laboratory Facilities

This work is now done at the Public Health Laboratory, Middlesbrough, only the biological test for tuberculous milk being carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton.

2. National Health Service Act, 1946

With certain exceptions the Guisborough Area Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee of the County Council exercises the functions of the Local Health Authority in supervising the day to day administration of the services provided under this Act. The Committee meets once a month at Guisborough. It is composed of members of the County Council, of the three District Councils of Guisborough, Skelton and Brotton, and Loftus, and of certain co-opted members. Among the services administered are the following:—

Domestic Help Service.	Home Nursing.
Prevention of illness: Care and After Care.	Health Visiting.
Ambulance Service.	Midwifery.
Vaccination and Immunization.	Care of Mothers and Young Children.

3. Guisborough Area Voluntary Care Committee

I would like to record the work done by this Body for the welfare of persons suffering from tuberculosis and other illnesses. Whereas in connection with the welfare of the tuberculous the Committee has certain funds allocated to it, for the welfare of other sufferers it depends entirely on voluntary contributions. Enquiries and requests for assistance may be made to the Honorary Secretary, District Health Office, Park Lane, Guisborough (Telephone: Guisborough 321).

4. National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951 — Section 47.

Again I managed to avoid advising the Local Sanitary Authorities to have recourse to the procedure laid down in these Acts.

SECTION IV.

Water Supplies

During the year I took 3 samples of the supply of the Cleveland Water Company; they were all found to be of a satisfactory bacterial quality.

SECTION V.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

One dairy and six retailers are registered in the district. Sixteen visits were made.

Food Premises

There are within the district the undermentioned food premises:—

Butchers	....	....	6
Fishmongers	....	....	2
Grocers	....	....	19
Greengrocers	....	....	5
Bakers & Confectioners	....	....	2
Sweets & General Goods	....	....	26
Canteens, Etc.	....	....	5
Licensed Premises	....	....	17

In cases where a shop deals in more than one type of goods cognisance has been taken of the main foodstuffs dealt with. One Snack Bar closed during the year.

Registered Food Premises

Premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, are as under:

Preparation and sale of sausages, brawn, etc.	....	6
Sale of Ice-cream	....	25

Forty-six visits of inspection of registered food premises were made during the year. Sausage making is the main work carried on in regard to meat products; the manufacture of brawns appears to be decreasing steadily in this area. In the case of ice-cream, all the premises registered are concerned in the sale of pre-packed ice-cream only.

No clean food guild is at present in operation in this district. I reported on this matter to the Committee in 1950.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1956

Improvements are continuing gradually to be made in the various premises; advice is given whenever necessary.

Ice-Cream

No ice-cream is manufactured in the district.

Licensed Premises

Fourteen inspections were made of the licensed premises in the district.

Fish Frying

There are ten fish frying premises in the district. These were inspected on sixteen occasions.

Bakehouses

There are two bakehouses in use in the district. Seven inspections of these were carried out.

Food Poisoning

No outbreak of food poisoning was notified to me during the year.

Byelaws

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Practices and Conditions in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air.

Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949

No action was necessary under the above during the year.

Meat Inspection

There are four private slaughterhouses licensed by the Council of which three are used for regular slaughtering by local butchers. Two hundred and eighty-six visits were made to slaughterhouses for meat inspections and 799 lbs. of meat and offal were condemned as being diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption. All the meat was surrendered voluntarily. All condemned meat is stained and disposed of either by incineration under supervision or dispatch to approved sources or, in the case of bony masses by burial at the Council's tip.

The figures given in Table 7 show the amount of time and care given by Mr. W. C. Ransom to this important matter.

This is the first year during which the scheme for relief work in respect of meat inspection during holidays or illness has operated between the Public Health Inspectors of Skelton and Brotton, Saltburn and Marske, and Loftus Urban District and I am glad to report that this scheme has worked well.

TABLE 7

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	543	5	2	805	694	—
Number inspected	384	5	2	413	451	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	34	—	—	—	3	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with dis- ease other than tubercu- losis and cysticerci	8.8%	—	—	—	0.7%	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	18	—	—	—	6	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.7%	—	—	—	1.3%	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total meat inspected was 240,368 lbs.

SECTION VI

Housing

I give below the figures of the housing inspections.

TABLE 8
Housing Statistics

New houses erected in 1957

(a) By Private Owners	....	....	..	0
(b) By the Council	...	....	....	24
<i>1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year</i>				
(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)				191
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....		213
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	..		0
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....		0
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...			0
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reason- ably fit for human habitation	....	...	....	185
<i>2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices</i>				
(1) Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit or repaired in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	....	....	....	142
<i>3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year</i>				
A. Proceedings under Sections 9 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957				
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	....	....	....	0
(2) Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices	....	....	....
(a) By Owners	....	....	....
(b) By local authority in default of owners	....	....	....
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts	....	....
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	....	....
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	....	....	....
(a) By Owners	...	....	....
(b) By local authority in default of owners	....	....	....

Table 8—Housing Appendix—Statistics—continued

C.	Proceedings under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957.			
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	....	0
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	....	....	0
D.	Proceedings under Sections 16, 17, 18, 26 and 35, Housing Act, 1957.			
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	....	....	0
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	....	....	0
4.	<i>Housing Act, 1936, Part 4, Overcrowding</i>			
	No accurate figures are available.			
5.	<i>Housing Act, 1949, and Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954 and 1957.</i>			
(1)	(a) Number of Improvement Grants made	....	....	0
	(b) Number of Improvement Grants refused	....	....	0
(2)	(a) Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted	....	....	0
	(b) Number of Certificates of Disrepair revoked	....	....	0

SECTION VII

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

I give a table of the inspections for nuisances carried out during the year by the Public Health Inspector, Mr. W. C. Ransom.

TABLE 9

Nuisances

Total number of inspections made for nuisances only	....	177
Nuisances found	....	53
Nuisances in hand, end of previous year	....	8
		<hr/>
Total needing abatement	....	61
Abated during the year	....	56
		<hr/>
Outstanding at end of year	....	5
		<hr/>
Notices served, informal	53	Complied with 56
Notices served, statutory	0	Complied with 0
Number of summonses or other legal proceedings	....	0

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.

There are no common lodging houses, houses let in lodgings or knackers' yards.

Byelaws in force in the District

Building Byelaws, 21st August, 1953.

Closet Accommodation

There are 58 privies with fixed receptacles and 232 pail closets in the district. In addition there are 3,014 water closets. Nine pail closets and two privies were reconstructed as W.C's. Twenty-four water closets were constructed for new houses.

Scavenging

Public scavenging is in operation throughout the district on a weekly basis with the exception of isolated dwellings. The refuse is disposed of by means of tipping. A considerable improvement in tipping methods has been made, and as much of the practice of controlled tipping as is practicable has been achieved. The present site is nearly full and a new site will very soon be necessary.

Shops Act, 1934, Sections 10 and 13.

Twenty-two visits were paid under the above section. Unsatisfactory conditions were found in two instances and remedied.

Tents, Vans and Sheds

There are two sites: they were inspected on four occasions.

Drainage and Sewerage

There is no sewage disposal works in the district, the sewage being discharged into the sea. Sewerage scheme at Cowbar completed. With the growth of out-lying communities such as Easington and Liverton the disposal of sewage will, I am convinced, present difficulties. It must be borne in mind that the water courses that drain these localities are small and in rainless periods insignificant or as in 1949 at Easington dry, except for sewage. With any sewage works whether the largest under hourly supervision or one from a single dwelling, which after installation is usually forgotten, there should be at least a 1 in 8 dilution of the effluent with stream water.

Water testing of new drainage work is carried out.

Air Pollution

One visit was paid to Skinningrove Works by myself together with Mr. C. Bride, Inspector of Alkalies, Works, etc. Three objections regarding the emission of pollution into the air were made on separate occasions. The absence of gauges belonging to the Council makes any accurate investigations impossible.

SECTION VIII : Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

The following figures have been returned to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, regarding factories in the district.

TABLE 10

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector)

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	26	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	23	26	—	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	0	0
Defective Sanitary Accommodation	1	1	0	0
TOTALS	2	2	0	0

